

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 16968 091055Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 ACDA-07 /099 W
-----091255Z 130086 /50

R 091054Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16968

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR FR FT ET SO
SUBJ: QUAI CONCERNS ABOUT THE HORN

1. CLAUDE HAREL, ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, TOLD US JUNE 8 THAT THE QUAI LACKS SOLID INFORMATION ABOUT THE RECENT ATTACK ON THE ADDIS-DJIBOUTI RAILWAY BUT TENDS TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS SOMALI-INSPIRED. THE FRENCH FEAR THAT SOMALIA MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT MUST TAKE MORE VIGOROUS ACTION NOW WHILE ETHIOPIA IS STILL WEAK AND DIVIDED AND BEFORE SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS HAVE STRENGTHENED ETHIOPIA OR RISK LOSING FOREVER THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOVER THE OGADEN.

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2. HAREL SAID THAT THE SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON THE RAILROAD DEMONSTRATED BOTH ETHIOPIA'S INABILITY TO CONTROL THE VITAL LINK WITH THE SEA AND THE CLOSE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ETHIOPIA AND DJIBOUTI. THE CURRENT CALM IN DJIBOUTI, WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION INCREASINGLY SEES THE VALUE OF A TRULY INDEPENDENT STATE AND OPPOSES ATTACHMENT TO EITHER OF ITS NEIGHBORS,

HARBORS WELL FOR LAUNCHING THE NEW COUNTRY. THE CHANGED
EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT, HOWEVER, IS DISTURBING. IN
ADDITION TO THE GROWING POSSIBILITY OF SOMALI
PREEMPTION, THE ETHIOPIANS MIGHT NOW DECIDE THAT IT WAS
ESSENTIAL TO SECURE THE VITAL RAILWAY. AND THE SOVIETS
MAY NOT BE ABLE, ASSUMING THEY STILL WISH TO DO SO,
TO RESTRAIN EITHER SIDE. IF ESCALATION OF THE DISPUTE
CAN BE AVOIDED FOR ABOUT A YEAR, HAREL THOUGHT THE
CHANCES FOR DJIBOUTI'S AFFIRMING ITS INDEPENDENCE WERE
GOOD, BUT THE QUAI IS MUCH LESS CONFIDENT THAT THIS WILL
HAPPEN THAN IT WAS JUST AFTER THE REFERENDUM.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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